WHY DOES LEGAL TIMBER MATTER?

Illegally logging and related trade:
- Has a devastating effect on forests and the people who depend on them.
- Is worth an estimated US $51-152 billion annually, or 10-30% of the global timber trade.¹
- Breaks cycles of corruption and poverty.
- Protects forests for future generations.
- Reduces carbon emissions.

The absence of good forest governance – how people make and enforce decisions about the management, use and conservation of forests – is often at the root of illegal logging.

Benefits of improving forest governance:
- Makes livelihoods sustainable.
- Preserves biodiversity.
- Protects forests for future generations.

Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT):
The FAO-EU FLEGT Programme works to implement the European Union’s FLEGT Action Plan by supporting timber-producing countries to improve forest governance and create an enabling environment for legal timber production and trade.

The FAO-EU FLEGT Programme has supported some 250 projects in 26 tropical timber-producing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America to combat illegal logging and associated trade.

15 countries are implementing or negotiating bilateral trade agreements, Voluntary Partnership Agreements which aim to ensure that timber exported to the EU comes from legal sources.

In 2016, Indonesia and the EU agreed to issue the world’s first FLEGT license ensuring timber arriving in the EU has been legally harvested, transported, processed and traded.

What can you do?
- Both producer and consumer countries have a role to play in combating illegal logging.
- Be a responsible consumer: support initiatives promoting trade in legally or sustainably produced timber.

15 countries

Indonesia

39,010
FLEGT licences

200,000
VERIFIED LEGAL export documentation

In the year ending May 2019 the dollar value of EU tropical timber imports increased by 6% from USD 4.25 billion to USD 4.50 billion²

¹ Interpol 2019
² FLEGT IMM

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